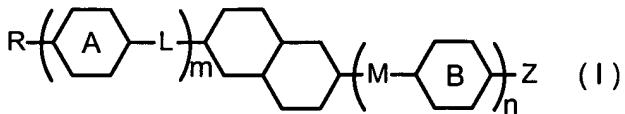


particularly preferable.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition represented by general formula (I):



(wherein, R and Z may be substituted with a halogen and represent alkyl groups or alkoxy groups having 1-16 carbon atoms, alkenyl groups having 2-16 carbon atoms, alkenyloxy groups having 3-16 carbon atoms, alkyl groups having 1-12 carbon atoms substituted with an alkoxy group having 1-10 carbon atoms, hydrogen atoms, fluorine atoms, chlorine atoms, trifluoromethoxy groups, difluoromethoxy groups, trifluoromethyl groups, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy groups, cyano groups, cyanato groups, hydroxy groups or carboxy groups, m and n may be the same or different and respectively and independently represent an integer of 0-2,  $m+n \leq 3$ , L and M may be the same or different and respectively and independently represent  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{OCH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{OCF}_2-$ ,  $-\text{COO}-$ ,  $-\text{OCO}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{C})-$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_4-$  or a single bond, rings A and B when present may be the same or different and respectively and independently represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group in which one  $\text{CH}_2$  group or more than one non-adjacent  $\text{CH}_2$  groups in the group may be replaced by  $-\text{O}-$  or  $-\text{S}-$ , a 1,4-phenylene group in which one  $\text{CH}_2$  group or more than one non-adjacent  $\text{CH}_2$  groups in the group may be replaced by  $-\text{N}=$ , a 1,4-cyclohexenylene group, 1,4-bicyclo(2,2,2)octylene group, piperidine-1,4-diyl group, naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group or 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, and

although these may be substituted with a cyano group or halogen, in the case m or n represents 2, at least one of the two L or M present represents a single bond; provided that the following cases are excluded:

- i. case in which m and n represent 0, R represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group;
- ii. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other of m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L or M when present represents a single bond, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-cyclohexylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group, alkoxy group or alkenyloxy group;
- iii. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L when present represents -OCO- or M when present represents -COO-, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-cyclohexylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group;
- iv. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group, L when present represents -OCO- or M when present represents -COO-, L or M when present represents a single bond, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents an alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-phenylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group, alkoxy group, hydroxyl group, hydrogen atom, carboxyl group or cyano group;
- v. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n

represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represent a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group, L or M when present represents a single bond, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkoxy group, and R or Z bonded to a 1,4-phenylene group represents a non-substituted alkyl group;

vi. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group, L when present represents -OCO-, M when present represents -COO- or L or M when present represent a single bond, and R and Z represent non-substituted alkoxy groups;

vii. case in which either m or n represents 1, the other m or n represents 0, ring A or ring B when present represents a non-substituted naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, L when present represents -OCO- or M when present represents -COO-, R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkyl group, and R or Z bonded to a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group represents a non-substituted alkyl group, bromine atom or cyano group, or the case in which R or Z bonded to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents a non-substituted alkoxy group, and R or Z bonded to a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group represents a non-substituted alkyl group or cyano group;

viii. case in which n represents 2, m represents 0, R represents a non-substituted alkyl group, M when present adjacent to a decahydronaphthalene ring represents -COO-, at least one of rings B present represents a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group or bromine atom, or the case in which at least one of rings B present represents a pyrimidine-2,5-diyl group, and Z represents a non-substituted alkyl group, alkoxy group or cyano group;

ix. case in which m and n represent 1, ring A represents a

Serial No. 09/763,531

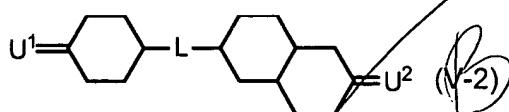
trans-decahydronaphthalene-trans-2,6-diyl group or a 1,4-cyclohexylene group, ring B represents a non-substituted 1,4-phenylene group or 1,4-cyclohexylene group, L represents a single bond, M represents -COO-, -OCO-,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ - or -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, and R and Z represent non-substituted alkyl groups; and,

applying similarly to compounds equivalent to the above using combinations of the abbreviations).

10. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R represents an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 1-12 carbon atoms, m represents 1, n represents 1, ring A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, ring B represents a 3-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group or 3,5-difluoro-1,4-phenylene group, L and M represent single bonds, and Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethoxy group, difluoromethoxy group, trifluoromethyl group, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy group or cyano group.

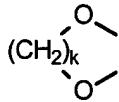
11. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein, R represents an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 1-12 carbon atoms, m represents 0, n represents 1, ring B represents a 3-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group or 3,5-difluoro-1,4-phenylene group, M represents a single bond and Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethoxy group, difluoromethoxy group, trifluoromethyl group, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy group or cyano group.

16. (Amended) A compound represented by general formula (V-2):



Serial No. 09/763,531

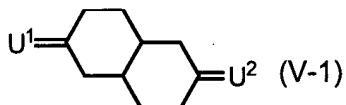
(wherein,  $U^1$  and  $U^2$  respectively and independently represent an oxygen atom or the following structure:



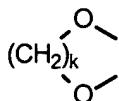
B

(wherein,  $k$  represents an integer from 1 to 7), L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I), and the decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form).

17. (Amended) A production method of general formula (V-2) according to claim 16 or general formula (V-1):



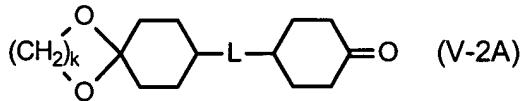
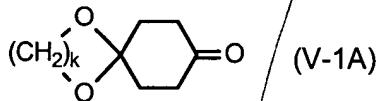
wherein,  $U^1$  and  $U^2$  respectively and independently represent an oxygen atom or the following structure:



C

(wherein,  $k$  represents an integer from 1 to 7), L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I), and the decahydronaphthalene ring has a trans form)

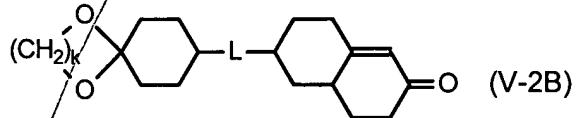
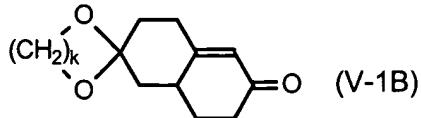
the method including: converting a compound represented by general formula (V-1A) or general formula (V-2A):



(wherein,  $k$  is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-2), and L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I)) into an enamine using a secondary amine, and reacting it

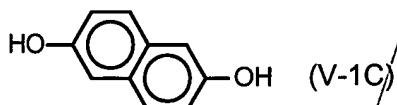
Serial No. 09/763,531

with methyl vinyl ketone to obtain a compound represented by general formula (V-1B) or general formula (V-2B)



(wherein, k is the same as previously defined in general formula (V-2), and L is the same as previously defined in general formula (I)) followed by reductive hydrogenation.

18. (Amended) A production method of general formula (V-1) according to claim 17 including: reducing a compound represented by formula (V-1C) by hydrogen in the presence of a metal catalyst:



oxidizing the hydroxyl groups as necessary, and protecting the carbonyl groups as necessary.

22. (Amended) A liquid crystal device having for its constituent feature the liquid crystal composition according to claim 21.

23. (Amended) An active matrix drive, liquid crystal device that uses the liquid crystal composition according to claim 21.

24. (Amended) A super twisted nematic liquid crystal device that uses the liquid crystal composition according to claim 21.

#### REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct "3,3,3-trifluoroethoxy" to -2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy-. The correction is self-evident for the following reason: since ethoxy has only